

#12/c PB

00684.003256.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1/23/04/

In re Application of:)
 TAKEHIKO NAKAI) Examiner: Leonidas Boutsikaris
 Application No.: 09/960,283) Group Art Unit: 2872
 Filed: September 24, 2001)
 For: DIFFRACTIVE OPTICAL ELEMENT)
 AND OPTICAL SYSTEM HAVING)
 THE SAME) January 20, 2004

Mail Stop RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2003, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being submitted herewith, Applicant's respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows. The claim amendments are reflected in the listing that begins at page 2. The Remarks begin at page 8.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 20, 2004
 (Date of Deposit)

PETER G. THURLOW, Reg. No. 47,138

(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Peter G. Thurlow
 Signature

January 20, 2004
 Date of Signature